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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned in the telephone interview on May 18, 2005.

The application has been reviewed in light of the May 4, 2005 final Office Action. Claims 1-45 were pending. By this Amendment, new claims 46-59 have been newly added. Accordingly, claims 1-59 are pending, with claims 1, 21, 29, 38, 46 and 55 being in independent form.

Claims 1-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as purportedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Independent claims 1 and 29 were previously amended (by the Amendment filed October 19, 2004) to clarify the claim feature of transmitting image information included in an electronic mail message to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet, when receiving the electronic mail message requesting image-information transmission to the facsimile device.

The Office Action stated that the (October 19, 2004) amendments to claims 1 and 29 introduced subject matter that was allegedly not described in the specification as originally filed, in a manner to convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Office Action stated that the feature of transmitting image information included in an electronic mail message to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet is not supported by the written specification and drawings.

As discussed (and agreed by the Examiner) during the telephone interview, the feature of transmitting image information included in an electronic mail message to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet, as recited in

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claims 1 and 29, is adequately supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. For example, support for the feature can be found in Figures 1, 3, 11A-11B, 12 and 15A-15B, and corresponding discussions in the specification (such as at page 23, lines 1-8, and page 36, line 18 through page 37, line 9, and page 52, line 20 through page 53, line 11), and more specifically, the discussions in connection with step S113 in Fig. 11B and step S313 in Fig. 15B.

Further, the Office Action indicates that claims 21-28 and 38-45 are otherwise allowable, if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

It should be noted, however, that claims 21-28 and 38-45 are originally filed and are independent of independent claims 1 and 29 which were amended. For at least the reasons mentioned above, Applicant submits that claims 21-28 and 38-45 are allowable without amendment thereto.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

Claims 1-6, 12, 29-33 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,742 to Iwazaki. Claims 9-11, 13, 17, 19 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly obvious over Iwazaki.

As discussed during the telephone interview, Applicant respectfully submits that pending independent claims 1 and 29 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 29 are directed to an Internet facsimile gateway device which is connected to a telecommunication network (for example, a public analog network, an ISDN, etc.) and to the Internet. The Internet facsimile gateway device makes it possible for a host device (for example, a data terminal device) having an e-mail capability and connected to the Internet to exchange messages including image information with a facsimile device connected to the telecommunication network. When the host device needs to transmit image information to the facsimile device, the host device transmits an electronic mail message to the Internet facsimile

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gateway device, requesting image-information transmission through facsimile transmission by the Internet facsimile gateway device over the telecommunication network to the facsimile device. The Internet facsimile gateway device then performs processes for facsimile transmission of the image information to the facsimile device. The improved Internet facsimile gateway device of independent claims 1 and 29 enables a sender of image information to easily confirm status of facsimile transmission of the image information to a facsimile device as a receiver of the facsimile transmission.

Iwazaki does not disclose or suggest such an Internet facsimile gateway device.

Iwazaki, as understood by Applicant, is directed to an electronic mail system in which a plurality of electronic mail devices transmit and receive images in the form of electronic mail over the Internet. In the electronic mail system of Iwazaki, when it is desired for an electronic mail device to transmit an image to a destination whose capability is unknown, a capability-requesting e-mail is first sent to the destination, and thus the sender can learn from the destination the e-mail processing capability of the destination.

Iwazaki discloses that each of the sender electronic mail apparatus and the destination electronic mail apparatus can be included in an Internet-facsimile apparatus. However, communication in the system of Iwazaki by and with the Internet-facsimile apparatus is strictly by e-mail (see, for example, Figs. 1-3, 5, 7 and 10 of Iwazaki).

Iwazaki discloses a router 11 through which an electronic mail message which may include image information from device 3, 4, 5 or 11 can be routed to the Internet and then through router 12 to an Internet fax device 6, 7 or 8. However, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Iwazaki that the router 11 or router 12 transmits image information included in an electronic mail message, to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over a telecommunication network that is not the Internet.

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Applicant simply does not find disclosure or suggestion in the cited art (including U.S. Patent No. 6,618,165 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0015968 A1) of an Internet facsimile gateway device connected to a telecommunication network and the Internet, as provided by the claimed invention of independent claim 1 as amended, wherein image information included in an electronic mail message is transmitted to a facsimile device by facsimile transmission over the telecommunication network that is not the Internet, when the Internet facsimile gateway device receives the electronic mail message requesting image-information transmission to the facsimile device.

Independent claim 29 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 29, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Likewise, Applicant does not find disclosure or suggestion in the cited art of a transmitting device comprising an inputting device, a transmitting unit, a mail creating unit and a mail transmitting unit, wherein the inputting device is configured to receive a request for transmitting image information to a receiving device, the transmitting unit is configured to transmit the image information to the receiving device, the mail creating unit is configured to create a mail for notifying a result of the transmission of the image information after the transmission of the image information is completed, and the mail transmitting unit is configured to transmit the mail to an address corresponding to the request, as provided by the claimed invention of new independent claims 46 and 55.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

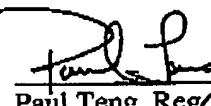
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If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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